

This is KADATH, a journal of postal Diplomacy, carrying 1970BL, the Blackmail Game, a game played by experts and analyzed by other experts. Subscriptions are 10/\$1. This is Pandemonium Publication #246, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116; 'phone, (714) 282-1921; member, RFFGCB Diplomacy Division, IFW Diplomacy Society, and Triton Wargamers.

KADATH 3
2
24 January
1970

Permission to call collect for moves has been received from Sid Cochran.

General Orders are on file from Charles Welsh.

First Stand-by for the game is Andrew Phillips. Second Stand-by will be Chris Schleicher, if he wishes to subscribe. Stand-by positions, like the original positions in the game, are on an invitational basis, and are limited to persons of at least equivalent experience to the original players.

The Commentators:

1. MR. JOHN BESHARA of New York. John is one of the most respected figures in postal Diplomacy and on the New York Diplomacy scene. As a Gamesmaster, he is associated with John Boardman's GRAUSTARK. He is the author of numerous articles and game reviews published in GRAUSTARK, ATLANTIS, NUMERIOR, and other postal 'zines. As a player, Mr. Beshara has won 4 of his 9 completed games, a phenomenal average of almost 50%. He took second or drew in 2 others. As a game analyst, Mr. Beshara is known for his no-holds-barred style (as witness the review below).

2. MR. JOHN SMYTHE of Nebraska. Mr. Smythe is one of the most feared antagonists in the game. He is a long-time member of the almost legendary Youngstown University Diplomacy Club and is the founder of the postal 'zine TRANTOR. He has written a number of articles on strategy, and continues that tradition here. As a player, Mr. Smythe (he always allows his friends to address him as "Mr. Smythe") has won 7 of the 12 games he has completed, an average of over 50%; he has also won more games than any other single player. Of the other 5, he took second or drew in 2, survived 1, and was eliminated in only 2 (he was also dropped from 3 other games, some of which he had not requested to enter, but we are interested in the games he has actually played).

3. MR. R. AFAS of ~~Findetelle~~. Mr. Afast, as a financial expert, is interested only in the fiscal standing of the Great Powers. His analyses of market trends and their relation to the world situation is most illuminating. //Note: Mr. Afast is also obviously a pseudonym. He is an interested party who prefers to remain anonymous; he is not otherwise connected with the game. He is not the GM and he is not one of the players.//

1970BL -- ABUNDANT TREACHERY MAKES FIRST MOVES SPARKLE

Spring 1901:

AUSTRIA (vonMetzke): A Bud-Tyr, A Vic-Tyr, F Tri-Adr.

ENGLAND (Cochran): F Edi-Trg, F Lon-Fth, A Lpl-Edi.

FRANCE (Poery): F Bro-Mid, A Por-Bur S by A Mar.

GERMANY (Nelson): A Ber-Kie, A Mun-Bur, F Kie-Hol.

ITALY (Lakofka): F Nap-Tyr, A Rom-Tus, A Von-Pie.

RUSSIA (Welsh): A Mos-Ukr, A War-Gal, F StP(nc)-Bot, F Sev-Blz.

TURKEY (Haug): F Ank-Blz, A Con-Bul, A Smy-Con.

FALL 1901 MOVES are due Monday, 25 January 1971, as announced on 9 Jan.

ANALYSES

A BANQUET IN THE OFFING. John J. Beshara

Sniffing the unorthodox opening of Austria and to a lesser degree of Germany, the four Central Countries are creating a potage of juices destined to baste the feast of the dominant Outer Powers: Turkey, England, and Russia. The weak nourish the strong and can hope for nary a bone on which to gnaw.

At the head of the dais is Turkey, enthroned in glory even Osman would envy, his appetite limited only by nausea. Would it be better to savor the succulent sweets or tackle first the tough bear before its claws expand?

Beside the Sultan is His Britannic Majesty, England, diadomed and emblazoned. Is his scepter pointed at Denmark or Belgium? Surely Germany thinks he knows. In the days of Kismet they said, "canning is thinning", but at this banquet England can indulge in the orgy fearlessly. Where England chooses to whet his hunger is the prime cut. It is tempting to maintain a laissez faire policy toward the French/German quarrel, but to let them wallow in the pit means rushing Russia. Victory over Russia would be Pyrrhic, for the already powerful Turkey becomes the beneficiary. My recommendation is to punt by placing an army in Belgium and a fleet in Norway.

Next in honor at our banquet is Russia, who is within reach of the salt. Positioned too tenderly for spicy fare, he should seek the nearby udders to suckle sustenance. The Austrian give-away to his neighbor in life as in play demands punishment.

Beneath the salt--a tragedy for the mother country of haute cuisine--France, yet honored and untarnished due to the munificence of his fellow San Diogan. Is support of Tyr-Mun the price? If Tricky Dicky faced the complexities of France's current qualms, I'd liquidate my stockholdings and sell short.

Italy grovels with the curs. Besides, the food there is at best mediocre (notwithstanding that some Italian restaurants in New York City are excellent). Fleet Naples belongs in the Ionian, period. While the occupation of Marseilles is a possibility, he must throw all his power in defense of Venice in order to insure that Austria does not get Venice and Munich (or Serbia). If Russia moves to Budapest, Austria will not gain a unit and together Russia and Italy have hopes.

Dinner is served.

THE BOND MARKET. H. Aspat

The New York Bond Market opened trading on several new long-term foreign government issues. Included among them were: Austrian 9½ '79s, English 9 '50s, French 9 '56s, German 9 '88s, Italian 9½ '61s, Russian 9½ '77s, and Turkish 9½ '87s. Some slight changes in price (base: Winter 1900: 100) have been noted:

AUS 90	The opening quotes reflect investor opinion on the strategies
ENG 101	and military tactics being employed by the European belligerents.
FRA 98	Great strength was shown by the Turkish securities. Market experts
GER 101	believe this is due to the Austrian decision to withdraw from the Bal-
ITA 90	kans. Germany's issues showed unexpected strength, which possibly re-
RUS 100	flects the anti-French deployment of the Italian Navy. Both the Ital-
TUR 105	ian and the Austrian government securities opened with a sharp dis-
	count. Apparently, investors are worried that an Austro-Italian war
	will end with the destruction of both powers. There was some mild trading in the En-
	glish and Russian issues, but not enough interest was generated to cause any signif-
	icant trend development.

SOME THOUGHTS ON PLAYING FRANCE (Part 1). John Saythe.

Several years ago I made the "error" of putting down on paper a few of my thoughts on the possible strategies open to the player of Germany. If my memory serves me correctly, I ended the article by noting that I believed France to be even more difficult to play. Well, the time has come to compound the original "error". For the next several issues of KADATH I hope to jot down a few of my reasons for believing that playing France is a most miserable experience.

To begin with, let me quickly list France's few advantages. First, she is a peripheral power. That is, a power located on the edge of the playing board. As such she is not surrounded by her potential enemies. Second, her opening game diplomacy is greatly simplified because she is bordered by only three great powers.

Finally, in the first game-year, France can occupy two supply centers, Spain and Portugal, without competition from another Great Power. She is the only power with two "easy" first-year builds (the other "uncontested" supply center is Tunis, which usually is occupied by Italy). At first glance, then, France appears to be well located. Furthermore, the prospects for growth seem excellent. Why then is France's record one of the worst in postal Diplomacy?

The beginnings of an answer are to be found in the geography of Europe and in Allan Calhoun's distribution of supply centers among the several Great Powers. To the northeast of France rests Germany, to the northwest lies England, and to the southeast there is Italy. With this distribution of immediate competitors, the player for France is obliged to divide his attention between two strategies: a northern and a southern.

France's northern strategy is very simple. She must prevent the formation of an Anglo-German alliance that is anti-French. To avoid boring the reader with the details, let me simply point out that three English fleets and three German armies overwhelm any combination of fleets and armies France is capable of creating with five supply centers (home, Spa, Por). Brilliance of military tactics cannot repair diplomatic defeat. An Anglo-German alliance should overrun France in three game-years. Even the intervention of Russia usually fails to save France. An Anglo-German alliance has at least four supply centers held in reserve for such a contingency. Summing up the alliance's first-year supply centers (ENGLAND: home; GERMANY: home; plus Bel, Hol, Nuy, Den) and subtracting the six used against France leaves four supply centers for the reserve. On occasion I have observed a player for France take the initiative against England and Germany by forming a Franco-Russian alliance. With rare exception the foolish player received his just desserts. That is, he was eliminated before the end of 1904.

The goal of France's southern strategy is the diplomatic isolation of Italy. The advantages of preventing an Anglo-Italian or a German-Italian alliance are obvious. Should France be forced to fight England and/or Germany, a successful southern strategy secures the south of France and Iberia against immediate attack. More important, a successful southern strategy facilitates the formation of an Anglo-French-German alliance, enabling France to mount an all-out offensive against Italy. Such a strategy does not end with isolating Italy from England and Germany, however. It should also attempt to isolate Italy from Turkey. A Turkish fleet attacking the Ionian cuts Italian support of Tunis and provides the player for France with an early opportunity to invade the Italian peninsula. Without Turkish intervention a Franco-Italian war is a long, drawn-out affair, providing France's erstwhile allies with opportunity to stab her. (To be continued.)

PRESS RELEASES

PARIS (1 January 1901): French history is the history of the French royal family which, for our purposes, will consist of the following: Her Majesty, the Queen Mother, Lurleen II; His Majesty, King Louis XXIV; Her Majesty, Queen Margaret of Gemignani-Savoy; the Dauphin, Louis; Princes Jean-Paul and Phillip; Princesses Anne, Marie, and Lurleen; the King's brothers, Duke Henri and Duke Charles; the Queen's sister, Duchess Marie. You are probably wondering how it happens that in 1901 France has a royal family, since in reality France in 1901 had a republican form of government. Well, that is a tale which will soon be told.

ROME (12 July 1901): By now Master Peery has bombarded you with a plethora of eloquent verbiage describing how France will react to pellagra in the Canaries and monsters in the Black Sea. Yet I find most of his repertory as amusing as a patient suffering from week-old constipation, who, to relieve his condition, consumes several packages of ex-Lax and then suffers from the opposite condition so completely that it can only be stopped by seven pounds of cotton and a #10 cork, and who must then sit helplessly and watch his nose turn brown.

PARIS (23 July 1901)(via Rome): Brown-nosed Larry Feery, head of the French Bureau of Weapon Development, announced today the discovery and perfection of the Liquid Incendiary Cork Cannon. A first test will be conducted on the outskirts of Paris on 27 July.

PARIS (27 July 1901)(via Rome): The Royal Flower Show was marred today when a brown tidal wave overflowed the banks of the Seine and swept the Royal Party two miles along the left bank. Nor was that the only tragedy today--an hour before the flood the Eiffel Tower was felled by a high-velocity cork!

ROME (7 January 1901): The wife of the Pope, Her Holiness, Princess Donna Bella Dig Bat, announces the first annual indulgence raffle and sit-down orgy, to be held on 4 July 1901. All crowned heads are invited to attend.

ROME (23 April 1901): Dear Roddy Wacker: Thank you for putting me between the two players that you have characterized as the two biggest weirdos in postal Diplomacy! You #888?@!?!!!

SAN DIEGO: Yes, Len, but have I told you when I think is the third?

A SURVEY OF ASTROLOGY

A friend of mine has programmed a computer at the University of California (at San Diego) with all available information on astrology. In order to prove, scientifically, the truth and effectiveness of astrology, he has fed the computer the astrological data on a number of famous people, and asked for a forecast for particular specific dates. Below are some of the results.

Julius Caesar 15 March 44BC: Today is a good day for attending to business. Get out of the house and go someplace. You will have particular good luck at public meetings and gatherings, and should have an easy time convincing people. Detractors and people who talk behind your back will be put to flight. The signs also indicate it is about time to be fitted for a new suit. Look for special favors from the hand of a friend.

Abraham Lincoln 14 April 1865: A day of leisure and entertainment, especially in the evening, is indicated. Let yourself go and don't give a thought for the morrow. Clear your mind of all worries; let nothing enter your head unbidden.

Admiral Medina Sidonia 12 June 1588: Now is the time to undertake that long trip or voyage you have contemplated; good fortune and water are deeply interconnected for you this month and into the foreseeable future. Any venture undertaken now will surely come to success, bringing fame, honor, and fortune to its participants. Take the tide at its flow and sail on to certain success.

General George Custer 25 June 1876. This is a fine time for an excursion into the country. Scout around and see what you can find. All indications are that sunshine and good fortune lurk behind every hill and tree.

George Wallace 4 November 1968. Today is not your day. Tonight you will be picked up by the Sanhedrin after being kissed by Ronald Reagan. The charge will not be what you think, but high treason. You will be scourged and tried before Earl Warren. General LeMay will deny you three times. Tomorrow afternoon you will be crucified between Mayor Daley and Paul Powell. Lurleen will weep and the Grand High Dragon's sheet will be rent. Your seamless memoirs will be raffled off to MGM. You will expire at the eighthour. But fear not. On the third day you will rise from the grave and then, by a miracle, be translated directly into the White House.

Muhammad 15 July 622. Hoo, boy, are you in trouble! This is a good day to stay at home. Don't stir out of the house; don't go anywhere; especially, don't go on a trip. Travel will be extremely dangerous and the stars are absolutely against it. Remember, you've been warned!

Charles I of England 30 January 1649. You will live forever.